GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:590
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
INDUCTION OF AGNI MISSILE
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not inducting the "Agni" missile into armed forces even after its successful test fire;

(b) the time by which this missile is likely to be inducted into the armed forces alongwith the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to manufacture long range air to air "Astra" missile; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be inducted into armed forces and the time by which its first test fire is likely to be conducted alongwith the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b): Based on the technologies developed under 'Agni' technology demonstrator project, Agni-II has been successfully developed, flight tested and has entered limited series production phase. Agni-II missile is planned to be inducted into the armed forces during 2001-2002. It will not be in public interest to disclose further details.

(c) & (d): A feasibility study for air-to-air missile 'Astra' has been undertaken, after completion of which a project for development of 'Astra' missile is planned to be undertaken. Development of this missile is likely to take about 7 to 8 years.